

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 3-6 and 16-23 are pending in this application.

Claims 1-7 are rejected.

Claims 2 and 7-15 have been canceled, without prejudice.

Claims 16-23 are new.

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 5 have been amended. Support for these amendments can be found throughout the specification, claims, and drawings, as originally filed.

Claim Amendments

The Office Action refused entry of the May 30, 2006 Request for Continued Examination (RCE) because the claim amendment sought to add a second electric motor which was considered to be directed to a different species of the invention. The Office Action granted Applicant one month to resubmit the RCE with different claims.

Applicant respectfully submits amendments to claims 1, 3, 4 and 5 along with new claims 16-23. The amended claims and the new claims have removed reference to a second motor but still include, a counter for counting the number of revolutions of an electric motor and determining the angle to which the housing as been moved. See independent claims 1, 16, and 20. The Final Office Action mailed on October 24, 2002 cited the proposed combination of U.S. Patent No. 5,012,693 to Enomoto et al. (hereafter Enomoto '693) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,204,753 to Schenk et al. (hereafter Schenk '753) and further in view of Japanese Patent No. JP 8026030 to Tomiyoshi (hereafter Tomiyoshi '030). The Final Office Action also rejected claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,953,167 to Valentino (hereafter Valentino '167) and further in view of Tomiyoshi '030 and Schenk Application No. 09/602,923

'753. The Final Office Action relied upon Valentino '167 for teaching a rear view mirror assembly comprising a base (128), a housing (124), a reflective member (126), an electric motor (122) and a controller (100, 110) including a measuring means (220) having a counter (90), note figures 4, 6-9, 11 and 12.

Applicant maintains that the claims as presently amended are not rendered obvious by the proposed combination of Valentino '167 in view of Tomiyoshi '030 and further in view of Schenk '753. The amended claims teach a counter for counting the number of revolutions of the electric motor. Tomiyoshi '030 and Schenk '753 fail to teach or suggest this limitation, while Valentino '167 teaches or suggests a wheel (58) that turns in response to a turn of the vehicle and corresponding pivot by the trailer about a pivot point (26). A cable (92) rotates in correspondence to the wheel (58) and the rotations or partial rotations of the cable are converted to electronic pulses in a counter (90). See col. 5, lines 8-12. Thus the counter of Valentino '167 does not teach or suggest counting the rotation of an electric motor as set forth in the claims of the present application. Furthermore, the other references do not teach or suggest any type of counter that counts the rotations of an electric motor. For all of these reasons, Applicant believes that the claims as presented are allowable in view of the proposed combination of references set fourth in the final office action.

CONCLUSION


Applicant respectfully requests entry of the Request for Continued Examination along with the above claim amendments. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for

substantive examination, and such examination is respectfully requested, and that the claim amendments are requested to more particularly characterize the invention.

Respectfully submitted,

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